Mrs. Helen Scott, of New Mexico, a Refined and Beautiful Girl Who Was for Four Years the Lead-

er of a Band of Ex-Cowboys, Loved Excitement.

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her sex who

are not new, but are merely wicked. Those of her who have tried this form of mental and physical effort seem to have won quite as conspicuous laurels an their chosen fields as do those others who have preferred to study law, take post-graduate courses, or bike in bloom-ors. It may be true, as that very deerned man, Herr Strindberg, asserts, that a woman cannot, by reason of mental inferiority, make as good a cup of coffee as man can, but when it comes to stealing horses she has proved that her mental qualities are quite the equal

But no matter with how much daring and success the woman horse thief may pursue her vocation, the "eternal will sometimes assert itself, as it did in the case of that curly-haired one in Montana, whose curing iron, carried in her hip pocket, led to her detection and arrest. But sometimes she drops the "eternal feminine" with her skirts, and, as long as she wears trouers, seems to be as manlike as any of



MRS. HELEN SCOTT.

her companions in crime. Such was the case with the young woman in Missouri, who was the leader of a gang of horse thieves, and whose sex was never suspected until after her arrest. And in the meantime her raids upon stable mad pasture had been particularly Caring and successful.

Of all the women whom fin de siecle degeneracy, or love of adventure, or need of extracting a living from the world, has driven into this form of acworld, has driven into this form of ac-tivity, the one with the most checkered causer is Jrs. Helen Scott, of sonthern New Mexico. For four years this wom-an was one of the leading spirits in a gang of ex-cowboys, who had become thouse thieves. They ranged all over isotthern New Mexico and Arizona, and alipped over the line into Old Mexico whenever the sheriffs and deputy marwhenever the sheriffs and deputy mar-shals were too warm on their trick. They captured more horses, disposed of them to better advantage and chided the offsers of the law ways as a second the officers of the law more successfully than any other band of horse thieves in the southwest. One of the men, after they were finally captured, privately declared that much of their succass was due to the wariness and as-tuteness of Mrs. Scatt's counsels and methods. She dressed all that time in men's clothes, and nobody would have guessed from her appearance that she was solvhing but a slender, handsome boy: Her companions all knew her sex, and among them and the sheriffs who chased her for four years she was known as Curly Hank Holder—shortened usually to Curly Hank. For her heir, unlike that of the Montana woman, did not need the curling iron to Reep it in waves and curls all over her head.

Mrs. Scott had been a wife and the

mother of four children before she took mother of four children defore she took to outlawry. During her mairied life she had lived in Texas, where existence for her had been as patient, uneventful and dutiful as it is for thousands of other wives and mothers. When her



WOMEN AS HORSE THIEVES poor woman and disappeared. For four years afterward she would appear once in two or three months, make them a short visit, pay for their board in advace, buy clothes for them, make them presents, and then sink into the un-known again.

But the battle of wits between out-

laws and sheriffs, however long it may last, is bound in time to be won by the sheriffs. And so at last Mrs. Scott and her cowboy band were captured in Dona Ana county, N. M., and taken to Las Cruces for trial.

Mrs. Scott's case aroused much sympathy, for her face was refined and at-S a means of making her way in the world horse stealing appears to be growing in favor with the New Woman and those of her sex who After the trial way. tractive, her manner modest, and her speech that of an educated, cultured woman. And of course lawyers and judge and jury and everybody else in the community were much impressed by her refined, womanly appearance, her lawyer made the most of the feeling in her favor that was possible and she was

After the trial was over Mrs. Scott, in conversation, frequently admitted her connection with the horse thieves. Asked how she came to adopt such a life she certified. life, she replied:

ie, she repited:
"I had to make a living for my children, and was tired of struggling along in the hand-to-mouth sort of way. I tried my very best, and all I could do was to get them barely enough to



AT THE HEAD OF THE COWBOY TROOP. oat and to wear. I wanted to do more

than that, and this was the only way I could see of accomplishing anything

There may have been truth in what she said, but it certainly was not the whole truth. A part thereof is that she was deeply in love with the leader of the band—a six-foot specimen of cowloy skill and during. It was prob-ably a case in which love said "come," and the woman obeyed. He did not get off as easily as did she, for the jury found him guilty. But while he was waiting to be taken to the pen-tentiary he escaped from the county jail, as everyone believed, by her con-trivance and tielp, and was found concealed in her room. He was retaken and is now serving his time in the textitorial ponitentiary. Her evident connection with his escape was winked at, because of the invorable impression at, because of the involuce impression she had made and the general belief that she had given up horse stealing for good and intended to earn an honest living. Her eldest children were adopted into good families and the other two were placed in an orphan explan. A small sum of many was asylum. A small sum of money was collected to tide her over immediate difficulties, and a chance was given her to try her hand at housework. She has done so in a good many households of that region, and there is a cousensus of opinion among those households that Mrs. Scott's talents do not lie in the domain of cooking and house cleaning. She is too likely to forget the weekly washing while absorbed in the attempt to paint her mistress' portrait and to let the dinner burn while she embroid-

It the dinner burn while she embroiders a sofa cushion for the parlor.

For, in Mrs. Scott's education, as sometimes happened twenty years ago, the accomplishments were not as much neglected as were some other things, and her return to respectability and opportunity has revived the desire not to get rusty.

She has always refused to give any information about her origin or her family, but it was recently learned that she is the daughter of a Unitarian clergyman in Ohio, and that her husband was a traveling horse dealer with whom

was a traveling horse dealer with whom she fell violently in love, and that when her parents tried to prevent their marrings she cloped with him and they went to Texas. And to this day, not-withstanding her many trials and vicis-situdes, fler wild life and wilder asso-ciates, Mrs. Scott still keeps the dainty figure, attractive face, gentle manners and refined speech that must have been the pride and pleasure of her girlhood's

"Did you really enjoy that wild life?"
the mistrassof a household in which she
worked asked hot one day.
"Yes, I did," she replied with some
hesitation. "That is, I did, after the
very first of it. At first I felt queer in
men's clothes and it everyed as if every. very first of it. At first I felt queer in men's clothes and it secured as if every-body who sayine filts know at once that I was a women and I was so afraid of exciting suspicion and getting the boys into trouble. But I soon began to feel perfectly at home in them, and as soon as I felt confidence in my ability to pass as a man I began to like it. It was so free, and there was always enough excitement and risk to enough excitement and risk to keep your wits alive and your nerves on edge. Of course it is wrong, theoretically, to steal horses. I knew that as well as anyone; but we only took from those who didn't need them as badly as we did and mostly from those who we knew had been dishonest those who we knew had been dishonest to somebody else: and I didn't consider it nearly so had as handeneds of things that lawyers and business men do right straight along and nobody ever says a word, about. Besides, I could make more money for my children than I could in any other way I had ever tried, and I had become so distant the money of the man in the more days as the could be a burayed, with the other way I had ever tried, and I had become so distant the money of the man in the money of the man in the money of th

when I found one by which I could make a comfortable living for them I was so relieved that I really didn't care whether it was right or not.

"I liked the boys, too. They were good fellows, every one of them, and as brave as they could be, and it is an outrage that they have been put in the penitentiary. They are better men to-day than nulf the other Americans in the territory. They took my advice about everything we did, and they all thought I had good judgment about things, and we all liked one another and got on so well together. Yes, I must say that I really enjoyed the life very much. It was the happiest four years that I ever spent."

From which confession it will appear that Mrs. Helen Scott is as hopeless a

complication of age-end degeneracy, new womanhood, female criminality and the eternal feminine as even Dr. Max Nordau or Prof. Lombroso himself need wish to investigate.

Mrs. Lease Removed From Office. TOPEKA, Kan., July 6 .- The Supreme Court rendered its decision this morn-Court rendered its decision this morning in the case of Mrs. Mary Lease against the State Board of Charities in favor of the defendant, George C. Clerk, who was appointed to succeed her as a member of the Board. This effectually removes Mrs. Lesse from



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